

SITUATION REPORT NO. 36
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: MARCH 4, 1997 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: A winter storm, accompanied by gusty winds, created blizzard-like conditions in eastern North Dakota on March 3-4. As a result of heavy blowing snow, I-29, north of Fargo, I-94, east from Jamestown, and other transportation systems were closed to travel. Schools released students early from classes on March 3 and delayed classes on March 4. Heavy snow warnings issued by the National Weather Service indicated total snow accumulations would range from five to eight inches. The Red River Valley in the Fargo area received over 10 inches. Strong winds continued to bring dangerous conditions to the Red River Valley region during the morning of March 4. These conditions were expected to improve through the morning.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The McIntosh County Sheriff's Office rescued an Ashley-area motorist and passenger who were stranded for 14 hours when their pickup became stuck during the March 3-4 storm.

A Nelson County road crew cleared a roadway so that a Dahlen resident could be transported to a hospital in Grand Forks. Nelson County law enforcement assisted stranded motorists who did not heed the "no travel advisory" issued by the Sheriff's Office.

At the time of this report, many counties affected by the recent storm had renewed efforts to plow snow. The McIntosh County Emergency Manager reported that snow accumulations on roads were of the same magnitude as before the county received N.D. National Guard assistance following the January Presidential Disaster Declaration.

To date, the federal share of snow removal costs totals nearly \$5.9 million, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staff at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) in Bismarck.

N.D. National Guard personnel estimate that \$1.2 million has been spent to date for equipment and personnel expenses. Approximately 20 National Guard members remain on state active duty for repair of equipment used during snow removal operations. As stated previously, the National Guard received requests from 22 counties with approximately 350 Air and Army Guard members assisting with snow removal work.

The Minot and Devils Lake satellite field offices were closed during the March 1-2 weekend as state and federal inspectors completed the majority of their work on Damage Survey Reports (DSRs). Inspectors in Devils Lake and Minot hope to conclude work mid-week. The Valley City and Bismarck satellite offices remain open as inspectors continue their work. In Bismarck, inspector teams are working on DSRs submitted by N.D. Department of Transportation and the N.D. National Guard. Two state inspectors that had been assigned to the Bismarck office moved to the Valley City office, and four inspectors assigned to the Minot office have transferred to the Valley City office.

As their work concludes, 17 state inspectors and eight federal inspectors have been released from duty.

As of March 4, staff at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) had received 292 Notice of Interest (NOIs) to participate in the public assistance program. Applications were received from: one rural water district; four public school districts; two power cooperatives; five state agencies; three Indian Reservations; 51 counties; and 226 cities.

Since recovery operations began, 292 DSRs have been submitted to the processing center at FEMA Region VIII in Denver, CO. Of those, 238 have been obligated and submitted to the N.D. Division of Emergency Management for delivery to applicants. Of all applicants, 73 have indicated that all DSRs have been submitted for processing.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The next Situation Report will be issued on March 11, 1997.

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director